

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01631 01 OF 03 271552Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----058221 271601Z /47

O R 271537Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5287
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 01631

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR TSPA GW UR US UK FR
SUBJECT: RENEWED SOVIET DEMARCHE ON OTRAG

REFS: (A) STATE 20955; (B) BONN 1451; (C) BONN 1184;
(D) LAUNDERDALE-GERMAN TELCONS 1/26/78

BEGIN SUMMARY. BOTH PARIS AND LONDON WISH SOME SLIGHT
QUALIFICATION OF THE STATEMENT IN THE PREVIOUS AD REF
REPLY THAT THE ALLIES ARE SATISFIED THAT NO GROUNDS
EXIST FOR SOVIET CONCERNS ON OTRAG. WE AGREE THAT THERE
IS MERIT IN MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT TO MEET THE FRENCH
INSISTENCE ON IDENTICAL REPLIES AND HAVE JOINED WITH
THE BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN RECOMMENDING TWO
ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION BY CAPITALS. ACTION
REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS
IN PARA 10 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. US, UK AND FRENCH EMBOFFS MET THIS MORNING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 01631 01 OF 03 271552Z

(JANUARY 27) IN A RENEWED EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON
HANDLING THE ALLIED RESPONSES TO THE TWO SOVIET
DEMARCHES ON OTRAG.

2. MASSET OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY STATED, ON THE BASIS
OF INSTRUCTIONS JUST RECEIVED, THAT PARIS AGREED THAT A
PROMPT RESPONSE WAS NECESSARY BUT CONSIDERED AT THE SAME

TIME THAT IDENTICAL ALLIED RESPONSES WERE ESSENTIAL. OTHERWISE, IF THE THREE EMBASSIES PRESENTED THREE DIFFERENT VERSIONS TO THE FRG, IT WOULD SIMPLY INVITE THE FRG TO DEVELOP A FOURTH VERSION. PARIS THEREFORE ASKED THAT WE TAKE THE TIME NECESSARY TO REACH UNANIMITY.

3. MASSET CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE THEIR PROPOSAL FOR QUALIFYING THE ALLIED REPLY WITH THE PHRASE, "IN THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR INFORMATION," TO BE MAINTAINED. MASSET STRESSED THAT THE FRENCH HAD NO REASON TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF THE GERMANS IN THIS MATTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ONLY INFORMATION THEY HAD ON OTRAG WAS THAT GIVEN THEM BY THE FRG; IF THE USG HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE FRENCH WOULD BE INTERESTED. MEANWHILE, THE DESIRED PHRASE WOULD LEAVE AN OUT IN THE EVENT OF ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MATTER. PARIS DISAGREED THAT THE PHRASE WOULD TRIGGER FUTURE SOVIET DEMARCHES, WHICH THE SOVIETS WOULD MAKE IN ANY CASE IF THEY WISHED TO KEEP THE MATTER ALIVE.

4. WHILE INSISTING ON THE POINT, MASSET SAID THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT "A VERY HIGH LEVEL" THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON AND THAT THE FRENCH WERE WILLING TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN LANGUAGE. THEY WOULD THUS BE WILLING TO MODIFY THE SENTENCE TO READ: "WE FOR OUR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 01631 01 OF 03 271552Z

PART ARE SATISFIED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES NO GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT." THE QUAI FELT THAT "UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES" -- A SUGGESTION MASSET HAD PUT FORWARD TO PARIS WHEN REPORTING THE DEPARTMENT'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT "IN THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR INFORMATION" -- HAD NO DISAGREEABLE CONNOTATIONS. IT WOULD OBLIGE THE SOVIETS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED, IF THEY WISHED TO RENEW THEIR DEMARCHE. PARIS WOULD ALSO BE WILLING TO BEGIN THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION WITH "WE CONSIDER" (A BRITISH SUGGESTION), RATHER THAN "WE ARE SATISFIED," BUT THIS IN ITSELF WOULD NOT BE QUALIFICATION ENOUGH.

5. THE US REP STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMALLY SUGGESTED "UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES" TO THE DEPARTMENT AND HAD IN FACT RECOMMENDED ITS ACCEPTANCE IF THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A COMPROMISE, BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD INFORMALLY EXPRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO THE AMENDMENT (REF D). THE US REP POINTED OUT THAT NO FURTHER WATERING-DOWN OF THE STATEMENT WAS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01631 02 OF 03 271553Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----058244 271602Z /40

O R 271537Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5288
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 01631

EXDIS

NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE, AS IT WAS IMPLICIT THAT ANY
REPLY COULD ONLY BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. CARTER (UK) REPORTED THAT LONDON HAD AGREED TO DROP
ITS EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL SENTENCE TO THE
EFFECT THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS WERE IMPROPER.
AS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TEXT, CARTER SAID FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN WAS TAKING A GREAT PERSONAL INTEREST IN
THE MATTER. A TEXT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIM ONLY IN
GENERAL OUTLINE, AS LONDON WANTED TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT
BEFORE HIS FINAL APPROVAL WAS SOUGHT. BUT OWEN HAD
INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT WISH TO BE TOTALLY
CATEGORICAL IN REJECTING THE SOVIET DEMARCHE, IN THE
SENSE OF EXCLUDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. AT THE SAME
TIME, HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT "IN THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR
INFORMATION," AS THIS WOULD GIVE TOO MUCH OF AN OPENING
TO THE SOVIETS. HE WOULD THUS LIKE SOMETHING IN BETWEEN
THESE TWO EXTREMES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 01631 02 OF 03 271553Z

7. THE DESK LEVEL AT THE FCO, CARTER SAID, WAS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO OWEN A TEXT WHICH READ EITHER THAT THE ALLIES "ARE SATISFIED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES" OR THAT THEY "CONSIDER THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES," IF EITHER TEXT COULD BE AGREED TRIPARTITELY.

8. MASSET RENEWED HIS EMPHASIS ON MOVING WITH URGENCY BUT NOT WITH "PRECIPITATION," GIVEN THE FRENCH BELIEF IN THE NEED FOR UNANIMITY. THE US REP SAID HE ACCEPTED THAT IDEA IN PRINCIPLE, BUT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT ADDITIONAL DELAY WOULD PRODUCE UNANIMITY. HE REITERATED THE DEPARTMENT'S PREFERENCE FOR MOVING AHEAD WITH SIMILAR BUT NOT IDENTICAL TEXTS IF THIS WAS NECESSARY FOR DISPOSING OF THE MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE AGREED WITH MASSET AND CARTER THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN DANGER IN INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS. IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT IF THE THREE EMBASSIES GAVE DIFFERENT TEXTS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE LATTER WOULD OBJECT, ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD PERMIT THE SOVIETS TO PERCEIVE DIFFERENCES IN VIEWPOINT AMONG THE THREE, AND WOULD URGE US TO RECONSIDER.

9. THE US REP SUGGESTED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE UNANIMITY MIGHT BE TO ABANDON THE EARLIER FORMULATION AND TRY A FRESH APPROACH. THIS SUGGESTION WAS ACCEPTED, AND AD REF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT IN PARA 12 OF REF (C):

"IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRG HAS RESPONDED TO THE INQUIRIES POSED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT AND HAS POINTED OUT THAT NO GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE EXPRESSED. WE FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 01631 02 OF 03 271553Z

OUR PART ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELEVANT TO THIS MATTER."

10. THE THREE REPS THUS AGREED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CAPITALS:

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01631 03 OF 03 271559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----058537 271603Z /40

O R 271537Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5289
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 01631

EXDIS

A. THAT IT IS DESIRABLE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO
HAVE IDENTICAL TEXTS.

B. THAT NO TEXTS WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE
FOREIGN OFFICE BEFORE THE THREE CAPITALS HAVE REACTED TO
REPORTS ON TODAY'S MEETING.

C. THAT TWO POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR REACHING
UNANIMITY:

-- (1) CHANGE THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THE TEXT
IN PARAGRAPH 12, REF (C) TO READ: "WE FOR
OUR PART CONSIDER THAT UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES NO GROUNDS EXIST" THIS
IS ACCEPTABLE TO PARIS AT A "HIGH LEVEL,"
AND THE FCO AT WORKING LEVEL IS PREPARED
TO RECOMMEND IT STRONGLY, BELIEVING IT
MEETS OWEN'S CRITERIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 01631 03 OF 03 271559Z

-- (2) CHANGE THE ENTIRE FINAL PARAGRAPH TO READ
IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 9 ABOVE.

11. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE EITHER (1) OR (2) WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE AND RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT

EITHER IN ORDER TO REACH PROMPT UNANIMITY.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 10 ABOVE.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, NEGOTIATIONS, MISSILE SITES, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN01631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0106
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780116/aaaaamzb.tel
Line Count: 283
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1eb770df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 20955, 78 BONN 1451, 78 BONN 1184
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3703933
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWED SOVIET DEMARCHE ON OTRAG
TAGS: PEPR, TSPA, GE, UR, US, UK, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1eb770df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014